20th Century Marxism

PHIL 641 / CRN 25979
T 6-9p
SCH 250c

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Office Hours: R 2-3:50
SCH 242

Course Description:
This seminar will trace the transformation of central Marxist categories within (1) Western Marxism via the work of Lukács; (2) the theory of ideology via the work of Althusser; (3) the concept of hegemony via the work of Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe; and (4) Marxist feminism via the work of Silvia Federici and Rosemary Hennessy.

Primary Texts:
1. Lukács, History and Class Consciousness
4. Federici, Revolution at Point Zero
5. Rosemary Hennessy, Profit and Pleasure

Some Secondary Sources:
1. Kolakowski, The Main Currents of Marxism
2. Jay, Marxism and Totality
3. Thomas, Marxism and Scientific Socialism: from Engels to Althusser
4. Bewes, Reification: Or the Anxiety of Late Capitalism
6. Elliot, Althusser: A Critical Reader
7. Montag, Louis Althusser
8. Resch, Althusser and the Renewal of Marxist Social Theory
11. Tønder, Radical Democracy: Politics Between Abundance and Lack
14. Hennessy (ed.), Materialist Feminism

All primary texts are available at the Duckstore.

Course Structure, Requirements, and Policies:
~Presentations:
You will be required to lead a seminar discussion. Leading a discussion involves writing a 5-page report on the text, which you will distribute via email to the class the day before the class session in which you will present meets. The report should reconstruct the argument of the text and raise a set of critical questions. You will open the discussion with a 10-15 minute presentation working off your written report.
~Prospectus:
You will submit a one-page prospectus stating the topic of your paper and the argument that you intend to pursue. Please include an annotated bibliography with a list of secondary sources that you intend to use. Submission of final paper is contingent on approval of your prospectus. Your prospectus is due on Friday of week 8.

~Final Paper:
This 3,000 wd. paper may develop further—both exegetically and critically—your presentation, although it need not. It may engage a different text or theme than the one discussed in your presentation. As a research paper, you must engage secondary literature and modestly attempt to pursue an original thesis.

All final papers are due via email by Tuesday of Finals Week. You will be responsible for making sure that I have received your paper—I will reply to your email noting that I have downloaded the paper without problems. Until you receive this conformation, you have not yet submitted your paper. No late papers will be accepted, unless accompanied by proof of illness or emergency.

Statement on Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is grounds for failing the course.
For more information, see http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/.

Grading Standard:
A+ = superb. No mistakes, well-written, well-researched, and pursues an original thesis.
A = excellent. No mistakes, well-written, and distinctive in some way or other.
B = good. No significant mistakes, well-written, but not distinctive in any way.
C = OK. Some errors, but basic grasp of the material.
D = poor. Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.
F = failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or complete lack of effort.

Grading:
Class participation 20%
Presentation 30%
Final paper 50%

Participation:
Coming prepared to discuss the assigned text and participating in class discussions are requirements.

Attendance:
You are expected to attend classes regularly and promptly. More than 3 absences will result in a failing final grade, unless proof of illness or emergency is provided.

Accommodation for a Disability:
If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon.

Sexual Violence and Survivor Support:
The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and
gender-based stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, call 541-346-SAFE, UO’s 24-hour hotline, to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit safe.uoregon.edu.

**Schedule of Readings:** (subject to change during the quarter with advance notice via email)

**Wk. 1**
Introduction to the Course and Syllabus
Lukács, “What is Orthodox Marxism?”
Recommended: Karl Korsch, “Marxism and Philosophy,” in *Marxism and Philosophy*

**Wk. 2**
Lukács, pt. 1 and 2 of “Reification and Consciousness of the Proletariat,” in *History and Class Consciousness*

**Wk. 3**
Lukács, cont. of pt. 2 and pt. 3 of “Reification and Consciousness of the Proletariat,” *History and Class Consciousness*

**Wk. 4**
Recommended: Althusser, “On the Young Marx,” in *For Marx*

**Wk. 5**
Althusser, *On the Reproduction of Capital*, chaps. 6, 9, 12

**Wk. 6**
Recommended: Antonio Gramsci, “Hegemony, Relations of Force, Historical Bloc,” chapter 6 of *The Gramsci Reader*

**Wk. 7**
Laclau and Mouffe, *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy*, chaps. 3-4

**Wk. 8**
Recommended: Federici, *Revolution at Point Zero*, “Wages Against Housework” and “Reproduction and Feminist Struggle in the New International Division of Labor”

**Wk. 9**
Rosemary Hennessy, *Profit and Pleasure*, chaps. 1-3, 7

**Wk. 10**
Final Discussion and Paper Workshop